

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1937,

by

O. H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin.,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

To which is appended the Report of

Mr. JOHN S. TOWNLEY, Cert. R. S. I.,

Sanitary Inspector and

Cleansing Superintendent.

F. POOLEY & CO., PRINTERS, NANTWICH.

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NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 100,823.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (middle of 1937), 24,870.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the rate books, 7,261.

Rateable Value, £111,098.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £442.

SANITARY STAFF.

Temporary Medical Officer of Health (part time), O. H. Blacklay, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin.

Sanitary Inspector (full time officer), John S. Townley, Cert.R.S.I.

Temporary Assistant Sanitary Inspector, H. Shepley.

Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor, H. Crabtree, A.M.I.M. and Cy.E.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions remain unaltered. The residents of the district surrounding Crewe and Nantwich are employed in these towns. The greater proportion of the population find employment in agriculture, which is the chief industry of the district. Allied industries, in the form of milk factories and a whey products factory, are situated in the area. There is one clothing factory in the district, which employs female labour. Unemployment is by no means extensive and agriculture is still faced with its problem of shortage of labour; this can only be overcome by the provision of houses which can be let at rents that agricultural workers can afford to pay.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	330	172	158
	Illegitimate	16	4	12
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13'912.				

	Total	Male	Female
Stillbirths	28	12	16

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 74·866.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	320	150	170

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12·867.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29, Puerperal Sepsis ...	2	5·348
No. 30, Other Puerperal causes ..	1	2·674
Total	3	8·021

Death rate of infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births 34·682

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 36·363

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 33

Deaths from Measles „ Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires comment—No comment necessary.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Causes of Death	All Ages		Totals
	M.	F.	
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	3	3
Influenza	4	15	19
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	5	3	8
Other Tuberculosis	—	2	2
Cancer	14	19	33
Diabetes	3	5	8
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	14	11	25
Heart Disease	53	44	97
Aneurysm	1	1	2
Other Circulation Diseases	8	6	14
Bronchitis	3	6	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	3	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	4	4
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Liver Diseases	—	1	1
Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	6	8

Causes of Death.				All Ages.		Total
				M.	F.	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...		—	2	2
Other Puerperal Disease		..		—	1	1
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth						
	...	...		6	7	13
Senility	...	...	...	5	8	13
Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other Violence	...	...	...	8	4	12
Other Defined Diseases		...	...	16	12	28
Ill defined or not known		...	...	—	1	1
Totals				...	...	...
				150	170	320

DEATHS.

The "corrected" death rate (calculated from the Registrar General's comparability factor) for comparative purposes is 11.837.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 12 (6 males and 6 females), all of which were legitimate.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year. The conditions of occupation and environments of the population are healthy.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There have been no further developments or changes and the laboratories mentioned in my Annual Report for 1936 are still used for the purposes mentioned therein.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is a motor ambulance at the Isolation Hospital for the transport of infectious cases and a Red Cross motor ambulance is kept at Nantwich for the transport of non-infectious and accident cases.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Professional nursing in the homes of the people in the District is by District Nurses, employed by voluntary associations. Nurses are stationed at Acton, Audlem, Bunbury, Doddington, Cholmondeley, Willaston, Worleston, Burleydam, Stapeley, and Shavington. These nurses act as midwives in their respective districts.

There is one registered but untrained midwife who practices in the District.

No special provision is made for the nursing of infectious cases in their own homes.

Nurses are employed by the County Council and are located in the Rural District; they exercise the duties of school nurses and health visitors to cases of tuberculosis.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The only existing centre of this type in the district is the Child Welfare Centre at Haslington. The Child Welfare Centres of Nantwich and Alsager are used by the residents in the vicinity of these places.

HOSPITALS.

There are no changes to report under this heading from the statement made in my report for the year 1936.

WATER EXTENSIONS CARRIED OUT DURING 1937.

The scheme for supplying water in bulk from the Bearstone Scheme to the parishes of Ashley, Muccestone, and Tyrley, in the area of the Newcastle Rural District Council, has been completed and water supplied since July last.

Water is now being supplied in bulk from the Bearstone Scheme to the parish of Norton-in-Hales, in the Drayton Rural District, and this supply was given in October last.

A duplicate 12-in. diameter rising main has been laid from the Bearstone pumping station to the Woore Ash reservoir with inter-connections to the original main to facilitate working in case of breakdown.

The Base Exchange Water Softening Plant has been installed at the Bearstone pumping station and has been working since October. The results have proved entirely satisfactory and water is now delivered to all consumers at a standard seven degrees of hardness instead of fourteen degrees before softening took place.

Several lengths of distributing mains have been laid to meet the demands of new properties in Woodside Avenue, Parkfields Estate, and off Broughton Road, Wistaston. Water mains have also been laid at Wheelock Heath and The Dingle, Haslington, to supply new properties.

In connection with the Council's Housing Scheme it has been necessary to lay a new water main in Casey Lane, Basford, and Wrenbury Road, Chorley.

A new 3-in. diameter main has been laid from Butt Green to Haymoor Green in the parish of Stapeley.

The main from the Rookery Gate to Worleston Cottage, Worleston, has been relaid in a new position and a new 1½-in. diameter main to supply premises in Back Lane, Brindley, was completed during the year.

The Council have laid a 3-in. diameter main from Poole Bank to Poole Old Hall in the parish of Poole.

WATER EXTENSIONS PROPOSED FOR 1938.

Arrangements have been made for the laying of a new 5-in. diameter water main from Wells Green along Brookland Avenue, Wistaston, to provide an adequate supply to the areas which are being developed in that parish.

Intimation has been received from the County Council that extensive alterations to the bridge approaches at Birchall Bridge, Hatherton, Old Mill Bridge, Dodcott, and Porters Hill Bridge, Wrenbury, are to be carried out during 1938, and these works will make necessary considerable alterations to the lines and levels of the existing water mains at these places.

The Ministry of Health have continually reminded the Council that further steps should be taken to increase the facilities for pumping more water at Bearstone and the Engineer has been instructed to prepare a scheme for the sinking of another borehole and the provision of additional pumping plant.

Applications from the Tarvin and Newcastle Rural Councils for an increase in their bulk supply are now in the hands of the responsible Committee and it is probable that these increases will be granted during 1938.

Some difficulty has recently been experienced with the supplies to the higher portions of Marbury and Norbury parishes, and it is possible that steps will have to be taken to remedy this trouble by providing some form of boosting plant.

PARTICULARS OF WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplied from Bearstone has been chemically and bacteriologically analysed twice during the year 1938, and examinations will continue to be made at half-yearly intervals or more often should occasion arise. The results of the last examination are herewith appended.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS.

A clear and colourless water, free from odour and deposit.

ANALYTICAL RETURNS. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Total saline matter in solution	...	...	28'0
Non-volatile (mineral) solids	...	...	23'0
Loss on ignition (organic and volatile matter)			5'0
Matters in suspension	...	...	Nil
Nature of ditto			
Total hardness	...	...	9'0
Temporary do. (as calcium carbonate)		...	17'4
Permanent do.	...	...	Nil
Combined chlorine	...	...	1'7
Toxic metals	...	...	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid do.	...	...	0'0005
Nitrous do. (nitrites)	...	...	Nil
Nitric do. (nitrates)	...	...	0'40
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 26'7° C	...	...	Nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of organisms developing on:—

		Per Cubic Centimetre.
(a) Media at 20° C	...	Total 25
Agar-agar	Liquefying.	

(b) Agar-agar media at 37° C ... 0

B. Coli. (presumptive test):—

Absent in 1'0, 5'0, 10'0, and 3 volumes of 20'0 cubic centimetres.

Present in.....

OPINION.

This sample corresponds in organic quality and all-round character with the sample of water taken from the softening plant. It is of an exceptionally high degree of organic purity, and its potable and wholesome quality is amply confirmed by the results of the bacteriological examination. It contains practically 10 grains per gallon of bicarbonate of soda.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Very little work on the laying of new sewers or the construction of disposal works has been done during the year, the only sewers laid being in connection with the building development in Wistaston and Haslington.

A scheme is being prepared for the conversion of pail closets throughout the area where sewers are in existence, and it is hoped to have this commenced during 1938.

The question of providing some scheme for the pooling of expenses in connection with the sewerage of the whole district has received the consideration of the Council and instructions have been given to the Engineer to prepare more details of the scheme.

Various conferences have taken place between this Council and the Crewe Corporation respecting the formation of a joint sewerage scheme for the treatment of the sewage from the Haslington and Wistaston districts, but up to date nothing tangible has resulted. Further consideration will of necessity have to be given to this matter at an early date, as the position at the Council's present works is far from satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The number of houses built by private enterprise during the year 1937 is 135, whereas 220 were built in 1936 and 284 in 1935.

No houses have been built during the year with assistance from the Council.

Contracts have been made for the erection of the following houses under the Demolition Programme:—

Alraham	...	4 houses,	Hilbre Road.
Basford	...	4	„ Casey Lane.
Bunbury	...	4	„ Wyche Lane.
Bickerton	...	2	„
Blakenhall	...	2	„
Checkley	...	2	„
Chorley	...	2	„ Wrenbury Road.
Dodcott	...	4	„ Whitchurch Road.
Wrenbury	...	6	„ Wrenbury Frith.

The Council are preparing a scheme for the further provision of houses to replace those subject to demolition as under:—

Audlem	...	...	10 houses.
Acton	...	...	4 „
Newhall	...	...	4 „

They have also decided to erect houses to relieve overcrowding in the following areas, and sites are now being acquired for that purpose.

Acton	...	...	8 houses.
Audlem	...	...	6 "
Alpraham	...	...	2 "
Bunbury	...	...	2 "
Calveley	...	...	2 "
Checkley	..	...	4 "
Haslington	...	...	6 "
Minshull Vernon	..	...	2 "
Willaston	...	...	8 "
Wrenbury	...	...	4 "
Wybunbury	...	...	2 "

The Council are also prepared to consider a scheme for the erection of houses for the agricultural workers under the provisions of the new Housing Act, which it is contemplated will become law during the early months of 1938.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), **349.**

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, **738.**

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, **Nil.**

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose, **Nil.**

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, **22.**

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, **83.**

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, **14.**

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, **44**.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners, **54**.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners, **Nil**.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, **Nil**.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners, **Nil**.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners, **Nil**.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, **27**.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, **3**.

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, **Nil**.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, **Nil**.

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

A.—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, **37**.

(2) Number of families dwelling therein, **39**.

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein, **270**.

B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, **4**.

C.—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, **11**.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases, **88**.

D.—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, **Nil**.

E.—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report, **Nil**.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Effluents from milk factories are the main cause of pollution in this area. Observation has shown that the precautions taken in recent years have tended to a decrease in pollution, and for the period under review there is little on which to report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There have been 53 voluntary conversions from conservancy system to water carriage, which leaves approximately 2,068 pails and privies in the populous and closely-built areas.

The Council have under consideration a Conversion Scheme for the populous and closely-built areas, and a survey for this purpose is in progress under the jurisdiction of the Engineer.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There have been no extensions to the area receiving this service. Negotiations have been completed for this work to be carried out by direct labour in the parish of Haslington from the 1st April, 1938, in lieu of the contract system which operates at present. The question of the scavenging of several isolated parishes is under consideration, but owing to the fact that the penny rate product in these parishes is very low the cost of any scheme would be very high.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector, which deals fully with this matter, is attached hereto.

SHOPS ACTS.

The majority of shops in this rural area form part of houses and are controlled by families dwelling therein. The lock-up shops which do exist are inspected and few infringements are found.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Complaints have been received with respect to a laundry and two milk factories. Following necessary action the nuisances were abated.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action has been necessary under this heading.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply of schools in the area is generally good.

In one instance the attention of the School Managers has been called with respect to drainage and sanitary accommodation. Arrangements are in progress for the necessary alterations.

Warmingham School was the only one closed, the closure being for two weeks on account of Measles.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. There are 617 farms licensed under the Accredited Milk Scheme, and there is one Attested herd, and 13 producers of "Tuberculin Tested Milk."

The standard of cleanliness is found to be high and alterations and reconstruction of shippens progressing very favourably.

Samples of milk are taken periodically from the retailers purveying milk in the Rural District, and these are tested for the presence of dirt and other extraneous matter.

Inspections are frequently made of the three pasteurisation plants in the district and samples are taken regularly and submitted for examination.

Meat and other Foods. Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops are visited regularly, and are found to be kept in good order. Owing to the large number of private slaughterhouses in this district and the fact that they are all working on the same days a comprehensive system of meat inspection is out of the question. Special attention, however, is given to premises catering for local consumption.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected ...	134	375	12	247	320	
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	5	—	1	4	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	20	—	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	6'7%	1'3%	—	8'5%	1'2%	
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	14	64	—	—	5	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	53	—	—	7	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	19'4%	31'2%	—	—	3'7%	

FOODS AND DRUGS ACTS.

These Acts are administered by officials appointed by the County Council.

NUTRITION.

No steps have been taken to increase knowledge on the above subject by this Authority.

SHELL-FISH.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of cases of infectious disease in the district was 104, as compared with 207 for the year 1936.

There were 31 cases of Scarlet Fever, a decrease of 68 cases on last year. Diphtheria cases numbered 42, a decrease of 38 cases on the previous year.

Twenty-seven sputum specimens were examined for the presence of Tuberculosis, but only four were positive.

One hundred and two swabs were examined for the presence of the Diphtheria organism.

Five specimens of fæces were examined for suspected Paratyphoid Fever.

Eighteen cases of Tuberculosis were notified: eleven were "Pulmonary" cases and seven "Non-Pulmonary" cases. The number of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths was one, compared with total Tuberculosis deaths of ten. The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in the area is very satisfactory and no proceedings have been necessary for neglect to notify the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
15	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
25	2	2	...	...	1	2	...	.
35	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
45	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	6	5	3	4	3	3	1	2
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total Cases, 18.

Total Deaths, 9.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of mortality from any particular occupation in the area.

DISTRIBUTION OF DISEASES IN THE DISTRICT, 1937.

Parish	Tuber- culosis		Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Diphtheria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Malaria	Totals
	P.	N-P.								
Alpraham	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Audlem	-	...	1	5	3	1	4	...	...	14
Austerson	-	1	...	1
Batherton	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broomhall	-	9	...	1	...	...	10
Bridgemere	-	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	3
Brindley	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Buerton	-	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Bunbury	-	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Burland	-	2	...	...	2
Cholmondeston	-	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Checkley	-	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3
Chorlton	-	1	...	1	...	...	2
Coole Pilate	-	1	...	...	...	...	1
Edleston	-	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hankelow	-	...	1	1	4	...	...	...	...	6
Haslington	-	...	2	1	1	...	4	...	...	8
Hough	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hunsterson	-	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lea	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leighton	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minshull Vernon	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Newhall	-	2	...	...	...	1	3
Peckforton	-	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Rope	-	2	...	...	2
Sound	-	1	...	...	...	...	1
Shavington	-	...	1	1	1	...	6	...	...	9
Stapeley	-	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	4
Stoke	-	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wardle	-	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Warmingham	-	1	...	...	1
Wettenhall	-	1	...	...	1
Weston	-	1	...	...	1
Worleston	-	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Willaston	-	2	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	9
Wistaston	-	...	1	1	3	...	3	...	...	8
Wrenbury	-	7	...	...	...	...	7
Wybunbury	-	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Totals		11	7	4	23	42	1	31	2	122

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1937.**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	31	25	Nil
Diphtheria ...	42	41	3
Pneumonia ...	23	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	1
Erysipelas ...	4	—	Nil

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE SHOWING THE
INCIDENCE OF CASES IN VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.**

Disease.	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	31	—	1	1	4	4	12	5	—	2	2	—	—
Diphtheria ...	42	1	1	1	4	2	14	4	6	7	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	23	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	3	—	5	4	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	104	2	2	2	10	8	28	10	9	11	9	7	6

The case of Malaria was contracted abroad.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken by this Authority.

In conclusion I have to call attention to the necessity for speedy action for the conversion of pail closets on lines of existing sewers, and have pleasure in stating that the preliminaries for such a scheme are now in progress. Immediate attention should also be given to the sewerage facilities at London Road, Stapeley.

OLIVER H. BLACKLAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin.,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

Nantwich,

June, 1938.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

INSPECTIONS.

Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	738
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	462
Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915; the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922; The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	...	...	...	...	304
					<hr/> 1,504

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease have been investigated:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	31
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	42
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	4
Tuberculosis Deaths	...	...	...	...	9

Disinfection was carried out in each case and investigation entailed 126 visits.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	9
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	164

DEFECTS REMEDIED UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AND HOUSING ACTS.

Defective ground floors repaired	...	...	...	38
Defective window frames made good	...	...	...	8
Works in connection with disposal of roof water	...	...	...	25
Firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	12
Plaster and internal walls made good	...	...	...	28
Flushing systems repaired	...	...	...	1
Windows made to open	...	...	...	36
Sash cords provided	...	...	...	5
External main structures repaired	...	...	...	33
Drainage systems reconstructed or provided	...	...	...	11
Washing accommodation provided	...	...	...	10
Sinks provided with water laid over	...	...	...	14

DEFECTS REMEDIED—*continued.*

Closet structures repaired	17
Doors and door fittings repaired	10
Roofs examined and repaired	10
Bedroom floors repaired	6
Steps taken to eradicate dampness	12
Skirtings provided	1
Staircases provided or repaired	6
Offensive accumulations removed	2
Animals removed away from domestic premises ...	1

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The premises in parishes which are scavenged under direct labour are practically all provided with ashbins. Ashbins have also been provided in the two parishes scavenged by contract. Informal action has been taken and very few ashpits now remain

CONNECTIONS TO SEWERS.

Connections to the Council's sewers have been made in 139 instances:

Wistaston	85
Shavington... ..	41
Haslington... ..	1
Willaston	1
Rope	11

Statutory action was taken in all the above cases.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Pail closets converted to water carriage	53
Number of pail closets in populous areas (approx.) ..	2,068

SCAVENGING.

Eight parishes are scavenged by direct labour with horse-drawn vehicles, and three by contract. Arrangements have been made for one of the latter—Haslington—to be brought under direct labour in the coming year. Proposals are under consideration for two further parishes to be scavenged by contract.

The approximate number of ashbins and closet pails emptied are as follows:—

Ashbins (fortnightly)	3,145
Closet pails (weekly)	1,334
Privies (quarterly)	10

No difficulties have been experienced in the disposal of nightsoil or dry refuse, suitable sites being available in all districts.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following is a copy of Form 572, issued for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, and WORKPLACES, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	12	2	None
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	18	4	None
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	None	None	None
Totals ..	30	6	None

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of defects.			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation:				
Insufficient	3	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Totals	7	4	—	—

ANTHRAX.

There have been 130 suspected cases notified, and of these 6 were confirmed, the remainder being withdrawn. Visits were paid to the infected premises to ensure proper disinfection and cremation of carcasses.

SWINE FEVER.

One case of Swine Fever was notified. Visits were paid and all necessary action taken.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Only one offensive trade exists in this area—a tripe-boiling establishment. Frequent visits are paid and the place is kept in a satisfactory condition.

SHOPS ACT.

Under the above Act 17 premises have been inspected. In three instances certificates of exemption have been issued with respect to sanitary conveniences.

CANAL BOATS.

Ten visits have been made to the canal and 21 boats were inspected. All were found to be free from infectious disease and no infringements were detected. The occupants were as follows:—

Men	...	...	...	...	26
Women	...	...	...	...	15
Children	...	...	...	...	11

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Two new licences were granted; sixty-four were renewed for storage of petroleum. Capacity is provided for the maximum storage of 55,450 gallons of petroleum.

Five licences for the storage of carbide of calcium were renewed; no new licences were granted.

HOUSING ACTS.

During the year 21 notices of "Time and Place" under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, with respect to 20 houses have been served; 29 Demolition Orders have also been made.

Under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, 44 Statutory Notices were served with respect to 44 houses.

The following indicates the position at the end of the year in consequence of action under the Housing Acts:—

(1) Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	12
(2) Persons displaced under (1)	...	...	...	...	37
(3) Number of dwelling houses made fit	...	...	...	...	125
(4) Houses demolished in anticipation of formal action	...	...	...	...	6
(5) Houses closed	...	...	...	...	5
(6) Houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	77

In all cases where action has been taken under the Housing Act, 1936, the facilities for reconditioning cottages under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts have been brought to the notice of the owners concerned, and during the year 36 houses in the area have been reconditioned or reconstructed with the aid of grants.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The administration of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:

The following samples were taken from retailers in the district and submitted to the "Minit Sediment" test, with the following results:—

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	38
„ „ samples found to be clean	...	...	...	...	23
„ „ samples found to be slightly contaminated	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ samples found to be dirty	...	...	...	...	4

At the end of the year there were 1,195 farms on the register. Three hundred and four inspections have been made and 77 notices have been served under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. The compliance with notices served continues to be very satisfactory. There are now 617 "Accredited" producers in the area.

Eighteen samples of pasteurised milk produced in the area were taken, all of which complied with the standard.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The number of licences granted or renewed under the above Order are as follows:—

"Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	3
"Tuberculin Tested" (Bottler's Licence)	...	...	...	...	3
"Tuberculin Tested" (Supplementary)	...	...	...	...	1
"Accredited" (Bottler's Licence)	...	...	...	...	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 4 registered and 33 licensed slaughterhouses in the area; all are regularly visited, and found to be in good order. For particulars of meat inspected see report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, notifications were received in respect of 117 animals. On attending the post-mortem examinations 53 carcasses were passed as fit for food.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This Act is administered by officials appointed by the County Council.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Two samples of water have been taken and submitted to the County Analysts for examination and for an opinion as to the advisability of using them for domestic purposes.

Results of analysis:—

- (1) Unsatisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.
- (2) ditto. ditto.

The necessary action was taken in each of the above cases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY, CERT. R. S. I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

